
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

School Food Service

Purpose

The School Food Service appropriation provides support to the food service programs in the K-12 schools. It serves as a match to draw federal funds.

Federal Funding Requirements

School food service programs in Iowa are primarily federally funded under the Food and Nutrition Service Grant. The State appropriation is used to meet the federal grant's maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement. In regard to this grant, the federal government discloses the amount of federal dollars available to the State and the required State funding to earn all of the available federal moneys. If the State does not appropriate the required amount, less federal funding is received.

The federal grant specifies that the State funds may be used for Department of Education administrative costs. The federal funds are allocated to the K-12 schools. If federal funds are reduced due to failure of the State to meet the MOE requirement, the reduction has a direct impact on the food service programs in the schools. In this event, schools must either reduce costs or increase meal prices.

Funding

The Department is currently appropriated \$2.2 million annually from the General Fund for School Food Service.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [283A](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—58](#)

Budget Unit Number

28201560001

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More Information

School Lunch Program: www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/school-meals-0
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